

[17 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) There is an estimated number of about 38 lakh Central Government Pensioners belonging to Defence Services, Railways, P & T and Central Government Departments.

(b) In view of the administrative, financial and legal difficulties, the Government has not accepted the recommendation relating to grant of additional pension for additional service beyond 33 years.

(c) The Vth Pay Commission has recommended that a National Pension Fund may be created with the Government setting apart 17.73% of the salary of every new entrant in service from the year 1997-98 so that their pension liability is wholly met out of the proposed pension fund. No final decision has yet be taken in this regard.

Switch over to Six Day Week

2745. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased state:

(a) whether any review has made about the effect of the five day week in Central Government offices and consumer departments on disposal of cases;

(b) whether Government are aware that the five day week results in delays and affects the public; and

(c) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to switch over to the six day week for Central Government offices?

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system introduced in June, 1985 without reduction in the weekly working hours as under six day week, was reviewed through study conducted by the Department of Administrative Reforms in February, 1987 and November, 1988 and was recommended for continuance. On a further review in the light of the recommendations of the 5th Central Pay Commission, Government Departments whose functions are pre-dominantly marked by public dealings or of commercial nature have been advised to review the existing arrangement and switch over to six day week working wherever feasible.

Filling of Backlogs of SCs/STs

2746. SHRI K.M. KHAN:

SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total backlog of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes appointments and promotions in respect of different classes of Government Employees, as on 1st April 1999 and 2000;

(b) the special steps taken and/or being taken to fill this backlog; and

(c) the further steps being taken following the adoption of the Constitution (90th Amendment) Bill, 2000?

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(b) and (c) Consequent upon incorporation of Article 16(4B) in the Constitution by the Constitution (Eighty-First Amendment) Act, 2000, orders have been issued by Government to all its Ministries/ Departments to carry out a review for early assessment of the backlog vacancies in respect of SCs and STs both by way of direct recruitment and promotion and to make concerted efforts to fill up backlog vacancies.